

Cluster Area:
Early Intervention Services in Natural
Environments

Cluster Area: *Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments*

Objective: Eligible infants and toddlers and their families receive early intervention services (EIS) in natural environments (NE) appropriate for the child.

Component/Desired Result CE.1: Do all families have access to a Service Coordinator that facilitates ongoing, timely early intervention services in natural environments?

I. *Baseline Data/Current Reality:*

Average Service Coordinator Caseloads

Area	Number of Service Coordinators	Average Caseload
Phase I & Phase II	198	16.78
Statewide (old system)	56	56.96

As of 6/1/03 SuperSPOE - 53 children did not have an ongoing service coordinator and did not have "service coordination" as a service type.

Children in Referral Status over 45 Days

SPOE	# Of Children
1000 - St Louis (Region #2)	470
All Other SPOEs	137
Grand Total	607

Includes all post-implementation Part C referrals who have never had an IFSP and have not been inactivated.

II. *Activities to Achieve Results:*

- Established a Central Finance Office and Centralized Data system
- Established 26 System Points of Entry – Statewide
- Established a system to credential providers
- Established a CSPD system that includes five standard training modules
 - Orientation to First steps
 - Evaluation and Assessment
 - IFSP Outcomes in Natural Environments
 - Transitions
 - Service Coordination
 - System Point of Entry Training

III. *Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:*

The above activities are all in operation

IV. *Timelines and Resources:*

January 2002: Contract for the CFO

April 2002: Phase I 5 SPOEs implemented in 18 counties

March 2003: Phase II 21 SPOEs implemented in 95 counties

State General Revenue

V. *Explanation and Analysis of Progress (or Slippage):*

Increases due to statewide implementation of the redesigned First Steps system

VI. Proposed Future Activities to Achieve Results:

Division of Special Education First Steps management team will review the following service coordination data reports on a monthly basis:

Intake Coordinator

1. Referral to IFSP report
2. Terminations by Reason- Children Who Never Had an IFSP

Ongoing Service Coordinator

1. Service Coordinator Caseload report
2. Service Coordinators by County report
3. Terminations by Reason – Children Who Had an IFSP
4. Children Over the Age of Three Who Have Not Been Terminated
5. Overdue Annual IFSP report
6. Children Without a SC Assignment report

Add to data system reason codes for children in intake status over 45 days.

Incorporate procedures in the Part C monitoring system for reviewing the timely conduct of Part C to Part B transition.

Regular meetings with First Steps and statewide Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) coalition to discuss Part C to Part B transition issues.

Training and technical assistance activities:

1. Service Coordination Training Module
2. Training Modules 1-4
3. On-line Practice Manual
4. Process and Forms Training Video
5. Monthly Service Coordination Conference Calls
6. Quarterly SPOE Meetings
7. Written technical assistance – FAQs and guidance letters
 - a. Natural Environments and Provider Availability
 - b. Group and Individual Services
 - c. Waiting Lists and Compensatory Services
 - d. Eligibility Determination
 - e. Release of Information
 - f. Non-traditional Therapies
 - g. ABA FAQ
 - h. Change of placement and location
 - i. Physician Scripts
 - j. Substitution of Personnel to include PTA/COTAs
 - k. SB874 guidance (transition to Part B)
 - l. Assistive Technology

Continue contracts with trained individuals to conduct targeted oversight activities with SPOEs, independent providers, and service coordinators.

Continue availability of Service Coordination recruitment brochure and information packet through First Steps Facilitators.

Continue implementation of provider recruitment plan, including service coordination, through First Steps Facilitators.

E-mail and phone technical assistance from Division of Special Education staff.

Develop survey of service coordinators to assess their perspectives on all training and technical assistance provided by the Division of Special Education.

All service coordinators must document achievement of their early intervention credential within 2 years of enrollment. Must document 3 credit points annually to renew credential.

VII. *Proposed Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:*

1. Number of children in intake status over 45 days decreases.
2. Number of terminations for the following reasons decrease: withdrawn, unable to contact/locate, refused.
3. Number of terminations due to ineligibility will remain at an appropriate percentage of total referrals.
1. Service coordinator caseloads do not exceed 50 children.
2. Service coordination is available in sufficient numbers to meet the demand in each county.
3. Number of terminations for the following reasons decrease: withdrawn, unable to contact/locate, refused.
4. All children over the age of 3 are exited from the Part C system in a timely fashion with the exception of 3rd birthday children.
5. Annual IFSP reviews are held within required timelines.
6. Number of children without an assigned service coordinator in the data system decreases.

Reasons for exceeding timelines will be due to family requested delays rather than system delays.

Review of CFO data reports, monitoring reports and complaint system reports indicates that eligible children have IFSPs in place within 45 days of referral and that eligible children have a smooth and effective transition to Part B services with an IEP in place by their third birthday.

Ongoing conversations between the Part C and Part B systems will result in a better understanding of transition issues.

Review of data system reports, monitoring, and system complaint data indicates that service coordinators are completing all required activities within timelines.

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Review of data system reports, monitoring, and system complaint data indicates that service coordinators are completing all required activities within timelines.

Training and technical assistance activities are revised or initiated based upon results of survey and other evaluative measures.

CFO credential report reflects that all service coordinators earn their early intervention credential and maintain it annually.

VIII. *Proposed Timelines and Resources:*

Monthly, beginning July 2003: Data system reports, Division of Special Education First Steps management team

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August 2003: CFO software change, data report

September 2003: Compliance Staff

October 2003 and ongoing: Division of Special Education staff

Center for Innovations in Education, First Steps training coordination contractor, Effective Practices staff, Compliance staff, other Division of Special Education staff

1. Ongoing

2. Ongoing

3. Ongoing

4. July 2003

5. July 2003 and ongoing

6. August 2003 and ongoing

7.

a. September 2003

b. September 2003

c. July 2003

d. November 2003

e. July 2003

f. December 2003

g. July 2003

h. September 2003

i. July 2003

j. July 2003

k. July 2003

l. May 2004

Ongoing: Funds Management staff, fiscal resources

Ongoing: First Steps Facilitators, Funds Management staff, funds for materials distribution

Ongoing: First Steps Facilitators, Funds Managements staff, Effective Practices staff

Ongoing: Division of Special Education staff

July 2004: Effective practices staff

March 2005: Central Finance Office, Effective Practices staff

Component/Desired Result CE.2: Does the evaluation and assessment of child and family needs lead to identification of all child needs, and the family needs related to enhancing the development of the child?

I. Baseline Data/Current Reality:

Part C-Evaluations and Assessments:

The self-assessment included no data regarding whether, as required under 34 CFR §303.322:

- (1) Evaluations and assessment cover all five development areas and include family assessments;
- (2) Evaluations and assessments are performed appropriate qualified personnel;
- (3) there are sufficient numbers of qualified professionals to perform evaluation and assessments in a timely manner.

See Personnel reported at GS 5

The three items above are included in the current monitoring system

#1 was not found to be a concern in initial Phase I SPOE monitoring

#2 was not found to be a concern in initial Phase I SPOE monitoring

#3 a field is being added to the Child Data System regarding the 45-day timeline

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III. Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

The above activities are all in operation

IV. Timelines and Resources:

January 2002: Contract for the CFO

April 2002: Phase I 5 SPOEs implemented in 18 counties

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State General Revenue

Part C funds

V. Explanation and Analysis of Progress (or Slippage):

Improvement due to implementation of redesigned First Steps system.

VI. *Proposed Future Activities to Achieve Results:*

Monitoring procedures will incorporate the review of the state mandated Eligibility Determination Documentation form to ensure that evaluations and assessments cover all five developmental areas.

The Missouri First Steps Practice Manual and Module II: Evaluation and Assessment contain information on evaluation and assessment and emphasize the requirement that all five areas of development must be addressed and that, with the families concurrence, a family assessment to determine the family's resources, priorities, and concerns must be conducted.

Monitoring procedures will incorporate the review of the state mandated IFSP form to ensure that consent is being obtained for a family assessment.

Data Systems will include reasons for exceeding the 45-day timeline due to lack of providers.

VII. *Proposed Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:*

Monitoring results will indicate that evaluations and assessments include information about all five developmental areas.

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Monitoring results will indicate that with the family's concurrence, a family assessment is conducted and documented in the IFSP.

Data indicates that the reason for exceeding 45-day timelines due to lack of providers decreases.

VIII. *Proposed Timelines and Resources:*

April 2004 - Compliance staff, Compliance Monitoring System (CMS) data reports

April 2004 - Compliance staff, Compliance Monitoring System (CMS) data reports

April 2004 - Compliance staff, Compliance Monitoring System (CMS) data reports

Component/Desired Results CE.3: Are appropriate early intervention services in natural environments and informal supports meeting the unique needs of eligible infants and toddlers and their families?

I. Baseline Data/Current Reality:

Primary Setting for Children with an Active IFSP on 6/1/03

Children with an active IFSP under 3 years of age as of 6/1/03

Setting	Count	%
Community Setting	243	7.31%
Home	2,735	82.31%
Other Setting	115	3.46%
Other Family Location	37	1.11%
Special Purpose Center	193	5.81%
Total	3,323	

II. Activities to Achieve Results:

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III. Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

The above activities are all in operation

IV. Timelines and Resources:

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Part C funds

V. Explanation and Analysis of Progress (or Slippage):

Missouri is continuing to see increases in Natural Environments since Phase II implementation.

VI. *Proposed Future Activities to Achieve Results:*

Continue monitoring of the SPOEs via the Child Data System
Explore incentives for providers to go into Natural Environments.
Develop written technical assistance on provision of services
Conduct follow-up survey six months post-exit from First Steps

VII. *Proposed Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:*

Continued increased growth in Natural Environments.

VIII. *Proposed Timelines and Resources:*

Ongoing – Compliance Staff
Exit Survey implemented 2003-04-Data Coordination and Compliance

Indicator CE.3 (a): What percentage of children are receiving age-appropriate services primarily in home, community-based settings, and in programs designed for typically developing peers?

I. Baseline Data/Current Reality:

Primary Setting for Children with an Active IFSP on 6/1/03

Children with an active IFSP under 3 years of age as of 6/1/03

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III. Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

The above activities are all in operation

IV. Timelines and Resources:

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Part C funds

V. Explanation and Analysis of Progress (or Slippage):

See CE.3

VI. Proposed Future Activities to Achieve Results:

See CE.3

VII. Proposed Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

See CE.3

VIII. Proposed Timelines and Resources:

See CE.3

Indicator CE.3 (b): What percentage of children participating in the Part C program demonstrates improved and sustained functional abilities? (cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; communication development; social or emotional development; and adaptive development.)

I. Baseline Data/Current Reality:

Inactivation reasons of children under 3 years of age who have had an IFSP (as of 6/1/03)

Reason	Count	%
Child Deceased	17	1.75%
Completion of IFSP	71	7.30%
Eligible for Part B	98	10.07%
Part B Ineligible, Exit to Other Programs	35	3.60%
Part B Ineligible, Exit with no Referral	27	2.77%
Moved Out of State	48	4.93%
Moved to another SPOE	54	5.55%
Part B Referral Refused by Parent/Guardian	40	4.11%
Transition to Part B	499	51.28%
Unable to Contact/Locate	40	4.11%
Withdrawn by Parent/Guardian	44	4.52%
Total	973	

II. Activities to Achieve Results:

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III. Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

The above activities are all in operation

IV. Timelines and Resources:

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V. Explanation and Analysis of Progress (or Slippage):

None at this time

VI. Proposed Future Activities to Achieve Results:

Continue discussion of 0-5 system

Continue discussion on linking data from Part C Child Data and Monitoring System with Part B Early Childhood Special Education data

Analyze follow-up survey results

VII. Proposed Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

Continued improvement

VIII. Proposed Timelines and Resources:

Ongoing – Compliance staff

Follow-up survey conducted 2003-04 – Compliance and Data Coordination staff

Indicator CE.3 (c): What percentage of children and their families receive all the services identified on their IFSP?**I. Baseline Data/Current Reality:**

Month	9-02	10-02	12-02	1-03	2-03	3-03	4-03
Providers On file	1,165	1,380	1,669	1,764	1,994	2,078	2,183

Provider counts are as of 5/29/03 and were provided by the CFO.

See Monitoring Data at GS.1

II. Activities to Achieve Results:

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III. Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

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IV. Timelines and Resources:

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V. Explanation and Analysis of Progress (or Slippage):

Increases due to implementation of redesigned First Steps system.

VI. Proposed Future Activities to Achieve Results:

This item is included in revised Monitoring System.

Analyzes of IFSP Services and authorizations/billing.

VII. Proposed Evidence of Change/Benchmarks:

IFSP Services and authorizations correspond.

VIII. Proposed Timelines and Resources:

Ongoing – Compliance Staff

Service Analysis 2003-04 – Funds and Compliance staff